FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2008

The Forks Market Kicks Off Spring Break With April Foolish Fun
Photo Opportunity: Sunday, March 30, 2008
Festival Runs Saturday March 29 to Saturday April 5

The Forks Market, Winnipeg – An odd assortment of characters are beginning to assemble their props at The Forks Market: rabbits, stilts, face paint, balloons, bowling pins, red noses and aerial hoops. This year, there's something foolish about the whole thing.

They are getting ready to get up-in-the-air silly, magical and downright ridiculous this weekend at April Foolish Fun: The 8th Annual Festival of Fools at The Forks Market. The entirely FREE Festival runs from **Saturday, March 29 to Saturday, April 5** and features performances by magicians, clowns, jugglers, comedians and high strung aerial acts.

"This year is a high flying magical ride for kids of all ages," says Neal Rempel, Event Producer and Executive Producer of Winnipeg International Children's Festival. "We have two straight days of aerial stuff and a full-on magic area, plus the serious silliness we usually jam pack into the spring break week."

The whole thing officially kicks off on **Sunday, March 30**, when the Festival of Fools shows off with a preview of the 26th Anniversary of the Winnipeg International Children's Festival on The Forks Market Mainstage.

- **11:00 am Tesseract** – from Vancouver, former Cirque de Soleil acrobats and festival faves!
- **12:00pm High Strung Aerial Dance** – from Toronto – aerial artistes suspended from the market roof – definitely not to be missed!
- **1:00pmThe Chairmen**– Rush seating!
- **2:15 pm Fred Penner** – Special Kidsfest preview

"Kids won't be able to resist the insane amount of clowning and people swinging from the ceiling," says Randy Cameron, General Manager of The Forks Market. "Add in some face painting, a few balloons and a whole lot of magic and you have the perfect spring break boredom breaker."

All performances throughout the week begin at noon daily, with three main entertainment venues within The Forks Market: Forks Market Circus Circle, Magic in the Market Stage and The Forks Market Main Stage. Select days feature workshops beginning at 11:30 am.

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The 8th Annual Festival of Fools is made possible because of a partnership between The Winnipeg International Children's Festival, The Forks Market, Esdale Printing and Winnipeg's Downtown Festivals program.

The Festival of Fools is also a great opportunity to take advantage of special early-bird prices for this year's special 26th Anniversary edition of The Winnipeg International Children's Festival, presented by Tim Hortons – June 5-8, 2008 at The Forks.

Those who buy now enjoy big savings and can begin to get the family ready to enjoy performances by family faves like Fred Penner, Al Simmons, and Jake Chenier. This years exciting new acts include: Louisiana's Terrance Symien, Les Parfaits Inconnus/The Perfect Unknowns, Hilby, Tomas Kubinek and much, much more.

For more information about Festival of Fools visit www.theforks.com or call 957-7618. For more information about the Children's Festival please visit www.kidsfest.ca or call 958-4730 or 1-800-526-1515 outside of Winnipeg.

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